

Public Service Announcement

Reminder – rabies encounters increase in spring

Start Date: May 1, 2026

End Date: May 31, 2026

Nunavut-wide

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Spring weather means an increased chance of encountering wildlife while out on the land. The Department of Health reminds everyone to be aware of the risk of exposure to rabies.

Rabies is a deadly but preventable virus that can infect animals and humans. Many warm-blooded animals carry rabies, including foxes, wolves and dogs. The virus is passed on when an infected animal bites, scratches or licks an open wound.

Nunavummiut should also use caution when handling wild animals that are considered to have a high risk of rabies infection. The rabies virus can be transmitted through broken skin or mucous membranes in the eyes, nose or mouth. Due to the danger of rabies infection, we remind all residents to use safe handling and skinning practices.

If you have been bitten or scratched by an animal, go to the health centre or hospital and report the incident immediately. Treatment must be started quickly after exposure, as rabies infections are almost always fatal.

We can all do our part to prevent rabies by:

- Avoiding stray animals.
- Supervising children around animals.
- Staying up to date on pet vaccinations.
- Tying your pets on a leash or chain when outside.

If you have concerns about a rabid animal, contact your local conservation officer. If your dog is bitten by an animal, call your regional environment health officer or local bylaw officer for instructions.

Regional environment health office [contact numbers](#):

- Kivalliq region: 1-867-645-8071.
- Kitikmeot region: 1-867-983-4236.
- Qikiqtaaluk region: 1-867-975-4817, 1-867-975-4815, or 1-867-473-2676.

For more information, visit the Government of Nunavut [website](#).

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